

For Immediate Release

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The Louisiana Technology Innovation Fund

March 30, 1999 – On March 24, 1999, the Louisiana Technology Innovation Fund Council considered seven innovative projects for funding. Four of the projects were selected for a total in funding of \$2,819,460. They are as follows:

- LSU Medical Center – Shreveport \$765,000
- LSU–Baton Rouge/University of New Orleans \$198,078
- University of New Orleans \$449,700
- Department of Health and Hospitals \$956,982

The goal of the LSUMC-Shreveport is to build a test-bed for Next Generation Internet-based (NGI) videoconferencing and collaborative technologies. This project is a partnership with the Office of Telecommunications Management, the LSU Agriculture Center, and the Board of Regents also participating. The results of this test-bed project will be used to provide a working model and blueprint for higher education and state government agencies so that newer videoconferencing technology can be implemented "on-the-desktop", quicker and at significantly less cost.

LSU Baton Rouge, in partnership with the University of New Orleans Ogden Museum of Southern Art, will convert the museum's 1,466 southern art works into an electronic format and put them online through the use of digital library technology.

The University of New Orleans through the College of Urban Planning will use its geographic information system skills to blend two types of mapping technologies into an integrated map product that will be used to compare U. S. Census data to identify and recover several thousand potentially "missed" Louisiana residents.

The Department of Health and Hospitals Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities will enter a partnership with the LSUMC for the delivery of medical services to developmentally disabled clients by way of emerging telecommunications technology.

The Louisiana Technology Innovations Fund as established by Act 481 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Legislature. To date, the Council has granted approximately \$7 million in awards for innovative uses of technology to state agencies. The use of such technology is enabling state agencies to deliver services to citizens more cost efficiently and effectively.